WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

alteration means for altering the content of a first image file, read from a recording medium, in accordance with a user's instruction, and generating a second image file; and

control means for, if authentication data is added to said first image file, recording said second image file onto said recording medium without deleting said first image file.

- 2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second image file is recorded in the same folder as a folder in which said first image file is recorded.
- 3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second image file is recorded in a folder different from a folder in which said first image file is recorded.
- 4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second image file is recorded on a recording medium different from the recording medium on which said first image file is recorded.

5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if a content of said first image file is altered, said authentication data is deleted from said second image file.

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- 6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein information on said first image file is added to said second image file.
- 7. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a part of a file name of said second image file is the same as a part of a file name of said first image file.
- 15 8. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image processing apparatus is an image sensing apparatus.
 - 9. An image processing method:
- an alteration step of altering the content of a first image file, read from a recording medium, in accordance with a user's instruction, and generating a second image file; and
- a control step of, if authentication data is

 25 added to said first image file, recording said second image file onto said recording medium without deleting said first image file.

- 10. The image processing method according to claim 9, wherein said second image file is recorded in the same folder as a folder in which said first image file is recorded.
- 11. The image processing method according to claim 9, wherein said second image file is recorded in a folder different from a folder in which said first image file is recorded.
- 12. The image processing method according to claim 9, wherein said second image file is recorded on a recording medium different from the recording medium on which said first image file is recorded.
- 13. The image processing method according to claim 9, wherein if a content of said first image file is altered, said authentication data is deleted from said second image file.
 - 14. The image processing method according to claim 9, wherein information on said first image file is added to said second image file.

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15. The image processing method according to claim 9, wherein a part of a file name of said second image file

is the same as a part of a file name of said first image file.

- 16. The image processing method according to claim 9, wherein said image processing method is performed in an image sensing apparatus.
- 17. A computer program for realizing by a computer the respective steps of the image processing method

 10 according to claim 9.
 - 18. A computer-readable recording medium holding the computer program according to claim 17.